

REMARKS

1. Status of claims

After entry of the above amendment, claims 2-4 and 6-7 are pending. Claims 1, 5, and 8-10 have been canceled without prejudice.

2. Support for amendment

The amendment of claim 2 rewrites the claim in independent form, incorporating all limitations previously recited by its parent claim, claim 1. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

3. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Gilbert *et al.*, US 2002/0034805. By the above amendment, claims 1, 5, and 10 have been canceled without prejudice.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1, 5, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Sjoberg, US 6,500,661. By the above amendment, claims 1, 5, and 10 have been canceled without prejudice.

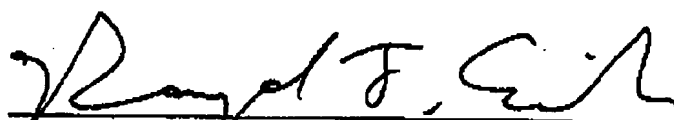
4. *Conclusion*

Applicants submit all pending claims are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned patent agent at (713) 934-4065 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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August 22, 2005



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